

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Completion of the Port of Miami Deep Dredge Project will ensure the doubling of existing cargo business over the next ten years and the creation of more than 33,000 permanent, well-paying jobs. Additionally, the deepening will ensure that the U.S. remains a leader in the post-Panamax global economy and will not lose jobs to foreign ports. We are seeking your support of this initiative, by including a nominal amount of \$100,000 - \$500,000 in construction funds in the FY 2012 budget. Indicative of the project's national significance, the Port of Miami is committed to work with its state and local partners to front the federal share of the total project cost.

The Port of Miami is the largest container port in Florida and the 11th largest in the nation. The port accounts for \$18 billion in economic impact annually and 176,000 high-paying jobs. As the closest major U.S. port to the Panama Canal, the Port of Miami is positioned as the first port of call for the next generation of fully-laden post-Panamax vessels that will transit the expanded Panama Canal beginning in 2014. It is also the only port south of Norfolk, VA with an authorized -50 foot depth which is "ready-to-go" and can be completed by 2014.

Having received congressional authorization and with the preconstruction work on schedule for completion by this fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could be ready to advertise by the end of the year. The non-federal share of the cost of the project has already been identified through a combination of state and local sources. As indicated, the Port of Miami is now committed to front the federal share which is estimated to be \$75 million.

We respectfully request, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, that you consider the immediate and long term benefits to Florida and the nation provided by the Miami deep dredge project. Thank you for your consideration of an FY 2012 budget allocation in order to assure timely completion of this important national project.

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress